

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Blackley, George, House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 421 East 200 North

___ not for publication

city, town Heber City

___ vicinity of

state Utah

code 049

county Wasatch

code 051

3. Classification

Category

___ district

☒ building(s)

___ structure

___ site

___ object

Ownership

___ public

☒ private

___ both

Public Acquisition

___ in process

___ being considered

Status

☒ occupied

___ unoccupied

___ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

___ yes: unrestricted

___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture

___ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

___ museum

___ park

☒ private residence

___ religious

___ scientific

___ transportation

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Anthony and Barbara Ivan-Smith

street & number 421 East 200 North

city, town Heber City

___ vicinity of

state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Wasatch County Courthouse

street & number 25 North Main

city, town Heber City

state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Heber City Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ no

date July 1978

___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City

state Utah

George Blackley Home

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George Blackley House is a one and one half story frame central passage house with a gable roof. It is an example of the Carpenter Gothic style. It is a rectangular form with a one and one half story rear T extension. A balloon frame is sheathed with drop siding. The facade is symmetrically arranged with the main entrance centered between pairs of French doors on the first floor. Round arch openings set into a pair of projecting gables on the second floor are centered over the French doors. The entrance reflects classical revival influences. A multi-paneled door is topped by a transom which has been painted, and is framed by side lights. The French doors consist of large glass panels with a framed edging of small stained glass panes. The paired gables are decorated by distinctive jigsaw cut bargeboards. The round arch second story windows are two over two double hung windows.

The main facade of the house faces west, but viewed from the south side the Blackley House resembles a crosswing house. The south gable end is distinctive because it has a decorative bargeboard and a three part projecting bay on the first floor with a second story door centered above it. The bay consists of three one over one double hung sash windows. There are inset decorative panels above and below the windows and decorative brackets are set below a projecting cornice. The second story door has round arch windows and a decorative hood consisting of a cornice, jigsaw cut ornament and decorative brackets. A porch decorated by jigsaw cut ornament and decorative brackets spans the south side of the rear extension. A door and window open off the porch. A portion of the porch has been enclosed (n.d.). That change, however, is minor and reversible. A small one story bathroom addition was added to the north side of the house, and a porch on the north side of the rear extension was enclosed. Those changes are relatively minor and were made on the side of the house that is not visible from the road. They are therefore unobtrusive and the exterior of the Blackley House maintains its original integrity.

The main portion of the interior of the Blackley House is divided into two rooms by a central passage containing a staircase. There is a single large room, a kitchen, in the rear extension. The bathroom and a small storage room open to the north off the kitchen. There are three bedrooms on the second story. Decorative features on the interior of the house include wainscoting in the kitchen and recessed panels surrounding the bay window and on the stairs. The original door, window, and baseboard moldings for the most part are intact, but they are extremely simple in design.

A building designed in the Carpenter Gothic style is a frame building which reflects Gothic Revival influences. The Blackley House is a good example of the typical expression of the Carpenter Gothic style in Utah. A traditional vernacular form, the central passage house, has been modified to reflect Gothic Revival influences. Horizontal siding is the most common exterior cladding applied to this style of building. Gothic Revival stylistic influences are evident in the verticality of the form, the steep pitch of the paired gables on the facade, and the decorative jigsaw cut ornament that highlights key architectural elements.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1877-78 Builder/Architect George Blackley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Blackley House, built in 1877-78, is architecturally significant as one of a very limited number of Carpenter Gothic houses in Utah.¹ Inspired by the pattern books of the mid-nineteenth century, particularly the published works of A. J. Davis and A. J. Downing, the Carpenter Gothic was characterized by local interpretation of picturesque designs, often approximating a regional vernacular.² Gothic revival elements are common in many of the early residences in Utah, in the form of projecting gables on standard house types and decorative jigsaw cut ornament. Because brick was the most readily available building material in Utah, however, there are very few examples of frame houses that reflect Gothic Revival influences. The Blackley House incorporates frame construction and Gothic Revival elements in a house that also displays characteristics of the local building tradition. It is an excellent example of the typical manifestation of the Carpenter Gothic style in Utah architecture.

George Blackley, a local carpenter and joiner, built this house in 1877-78 and lived there until his death in 1902. Born in England in 1830, he emigrated to the U.S. and Utah in 1869 after converting to Mormonism. During the course of his career as a carpenter, he helped construct numerous buildings in the Heber City area, including the stake tabernacle (LDS) and numerous other schools, churches, and residences. His wife, Elizabeth White Blackley, also a Mormon convert, came to Utah in 1866 with two of their children, while George stayed behind to earn money for his and their other children's emigration. They settled in Heber City where George pursued his carpentry work and Elizabeth, in addition to raising their five children, worked as a tailor. She died in 1909. William L. (Lorry) Blackley, a son, took over the house and property after his parents' deaths. The house remained in the Blackley family until 1937, when it was sold to Gray-Payne Realty, which probably used it as rental property. Lynn and LaPreel McKnight purchased the property in 1943 and it remained in their family until 1984.

Typical of most Mormon towns, Heber City is primarily a town of masonry buildings. The construction of frame houses in Utah was discouraged by both the scarcity of wood and by the pronouncements of Mormon church leaders, specifically Brigham Young, who favored the symbolic and structural permanence of masonry buildings. The use of wood on most houses in Mormon communities usually consisted of eave and porch decoration only. Due to abundant local timber resources in the Heber City area, however, there are a greater percentage of frame buildings in this town than are generally found in Utah communities, which are, for the most part, located in more arid, sparsely timbered regions. Other well-timbered regions, such as Cache Valley in northern Utah, also exhibit a greater number of frame buildings, as do the non-Mormon mining towns, which, in fact, have very few masonry houses. The

(See Continuation Page)

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

George Blackley House
History (Continued):

availability of lumber in Heber City provided a construction climate conducive to the use of the wood-frame Carpenter Gothic style, although it was never a popular style locally. The Blackley House is the only identified example of a wood-frame Carpenter Gothic style house in Heber City.

Notes

¹See Peter L. Goss, "The Architectural History of Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly 43:3 (Summer 1975), p. 219. Other Utah examples include the William Barton House, Avenues Historic District, National Register; the Thomas Quayle House, Capitol Hill Historic District, National Register; and the Watkins-Coleman House, Midway, National Register. The latter is actually a masonry house with elaborate Carpenter Gothic trim.

²The Carpenter Gothic concept is defined in William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1978), p. 416.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records of Wasatch County, Heber City, 1870, 1880, 1900. Available at USHS Library.

Mortimer, William James, Compiler and editor. How Beautiful Upon the Mountains: A Centennial History of Wasatch County. Heber City, Utah: Wasatch County Ch, D.U.P., 1963

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Heber City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	4	6	5	6	6	0	4	4	8	4	2	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing at the SW corner of Block 119 Heber City Survey (T3S R5E Sec 32), thence N 99.22 feet, E 79.82 feet, S 99.22 feet, W 79.82 feet to beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anthony and Barbara Ivan-Smith

organization

date January 1985

street & number 421 East 200 North

telephone 801-654-4800

city or town Heber City

state Utah

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 3, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration